

Theory of Political Spectrum

Proposed New Model of Political Spectrum in the Context of Political Changes Caused by Globalisation

Major political changes are happening across Europe and the world during the second decade of the 21 century, represented by the collapse of traditional party systems or Brexit. Current models of political spectrum cannot convincingly explain these changes.

In my thesis, I propose a new model of political spectrum which reflects contemporary political changes and contributes to their explanation. Main innovation of the model is the inclusion of political conflict based on globalisation.

In the first part of the thesis, I describe historic and modern models of political spectrum including the well-known political compass. I analyse them, critically assess them and form general methodological requirements, which should be met by functional models of political spectrum.

In the second part of the thesis, I integrate cleavage theory into the theory of political spectrum. Cleavage theory addresses the most salient political conflicts in political systems. Furthermore, I describe the decline of traditional cleavages and changes in party systems. I dedicate most of my attention to a new cleavage caused by globalisation, described as transnational cleavage.

In the third part of the thesis, I update the economic distributive cleavage in order to reflect the socioeconomic and political developments of the past decades. Furthermore, I synthesize described concepts of transnational cleavage and create new summarizing concept of the cleavage.

The outcome of my thesis is a proposed new bidimensional model of political spectrum which constitutes transnational and distributional cleavage. Its main advantage is the focus on most salient current political topics with decisive impact on voter choices. The thesis may serve as a starting point for further research which would operationalize the proposed model by formulating political questions or claims.

The new model of political spectrum may contribute to the explanation of major changes of political systems of the past decade.